

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our continued shared support for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application submitted by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan. The updated application requests \$105,100,000 in funding to leverage a total investment of \$192,000,000 for the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project. The INFRA grant, along with a substantial non-federal match already pledged by local investors, will transform this 30-year-old roadway strewn with potholes and a decaying roadbed into a next-generation corridor of innovation.

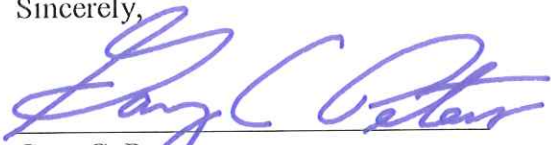
The Mound Road Corridor is a major artery for national automotive, defense, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing installations, running through the third and fourth largest cities in Michigan. Mound Road is a critical 9-mile, 8-lane connection between Interstate 696 and State Route M-59, supporting over 81,000 nearby manufacturing jobs. Industrial facilities and employers along the route include the General Motors Technical Center, the Ford Axle Plant, the Chrysler Assembly Plant, General Dynamics Land Systems, BAE Systems, and the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), among others. These establishments, which generate nationally critical advancements in science and technology, deserve better than a roadway with a reputation for potholes the size of craters.

Infrastructure investments are necessary for bringing a region of Michigan referred to as the "Arsenal of Democracy" during WWII into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An INFRA grant would enable local sponsors to implement their carefully designed vision for a modernized transportation corridor. This plan for a total rebuild will reduce congestion, move freight more efficiently, and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. It will also incorporate cutting-edge smart technologies like connected vehicles, intelligent signalization systems, and real-time traffic speed monitoring. Consistent with the goals of the INFRA grant program, the Innovate Mound initiative is focused on the long-term economic needs of businesses and the future of mobility and technology.

We recognize significant economic potential in the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology and Innovation Project. The benefits of targeted federal and local investments to replace and improve critical infrastructure along this corridor will spread throughout the region and country. This project aligns with our common interests of supporting Michigan's hard work to attract and

maintain vital U.S. manufacturing jobs. We appreciate your careful consideration of this grant application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan.

Sincerely,



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



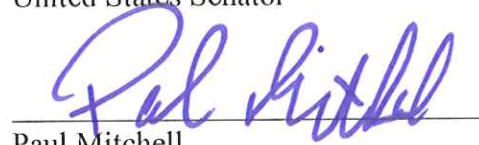
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Sander M. Levin  
United States Congressman



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Paul Mitchell  
United States Congressman